

HISTORY OF CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION IN KENTUCKY



1940s—Blue Grass Army Depot begins storage of chemical weapons containing mustard agent.

1960s—Blue Grass Army Depot begins storage of chemical weapons containing nerve agent.

1986—Congress directs the U.S. Army to destroy the chemical weapons stockpile while providing maximum protection to the public, the environment and workers.

1993—Governor-appointed Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission is established.

1996—September. Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office opens. Congress establishes Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) Program to identify and demonstrate alternatives to incineration.



April—The United States ratifies the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty, which directs all member nations to destroy their chemical weapons and production facilities.

May—ACWA begins public participation process known as the ACWA Dialogue.

1997



October—Public law assigns ACWA responsibility for destruction of the chemical weapons stored in Kentucky and Colorado if alternative technologies are chosen.

November—Environmental Impact Statement concludes that neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation is the preferred alternative to destroy the stockpile.

December—Final Environmental Impact Statement issued for Kentucky.

2002



February—Department of Defense selects neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation as the official destruction method for Kentucky stockpile.

June—ACWA changes its name to Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives to reflect new role: overseeing destruction pilot plant projects in Colorado and Kentucky. Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Team is awarded contract to design, build and operate the pilot plant.

October—Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board is established.

2003



January—Public meeting held to solicit public input prior to application of environmental permit.

March—Research, development and demonstration permit application submitted to Commonwealth of Kentucky.

July—Initial pilot plant design completed.

2004



February—Intermediate design for the pilot plant completed.

March—ACWA and Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Team start public involvement process for cost-reduction design options.

2005